

Shared Tolerance Appreciation & Respect

 Printer-friendly page



The Michigan Amateur Hockey Association's S.T.A.R. Hockey program was one of the first of its type created anywhere in the country. It is our response to increasing reports of misconduct, abuse, and violence in youth hockey and other youth sports.

The S.T.A.R. Hockey program is meant to be presented and explained to ALL hockey participants in Michigan, including parents, players, coaches, officials, and administrators. It is also reviewed in Coaching and Officiating education programs. The Parent Code of Conduct form is a mandatory part of the registration process.

The mission of the **Michigan Amateur Hockey Association's S.T.A.R. HOCKEY** program is to provide a youth hockey environment in which all the individuals are treated with respect and dignity for the enjoyment and personal development of everyone. Below you will find a copy of the code of conduct that we expect all participants and spectators to follow. Should an incident occur, you can file an incident report by clicking the incident report link in the navigational bar on the left.

S.T.A.R.

SHARED TOLERANCE, APPRECIATION, & RESPECT

The mission of the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association's S.T.A.R. HOCKEY program is to provide a youth hockey environment in which all the individuals are treated with respect and dignity for the enjoyment and personal development of everyone.

The S.T.A.R. HOCKEY program is based on the principal that we can all be stars...S.T.A.R. Players, S.T.A.R. Parents, S.T.A.R. Coaches, and S.T.A.R. Officials if we simply adopt shared guidelines and values:

TOLERANCE: Patience, leniency, and acceptance of amateurs, particularly coaches and referees, but also players and sometimes parents new to the sport.

APPRECIATION: Awareness, understanding, and gratitude for what all volunteer participants must go through to become involved.

RESPECT: Value, consideration, and recognition for the individual contributions and sacrifices by coaches, officials, and parents to make youth hockey possible.

It is important to understand that youth hockey really is just a game. Everyone who makes it possible, from parents to officials, volunteer their time, effort, and money so that kids can play. The officials and coaches are not professionals...most are volunteers doing the best job they can. By embracing the S.T.A.R. HOCKEY Code of Conduct, we will all be making an effort toward showing our genuine appreciation and respect for everyone associated with the game.

Participant's Video



Click the screen above to begin watching the video. Hosted by former Detroit Red Wings player Dallas Drake, this video explains the principles of the STAR program. This should be a must see for all hockey parents. The video shows how off-ice antics affect the players on-ice. MAHA Associations can request copies of this video for their use from the MAHA STAR Committee.



CODE OF CONDUCT

I WILL promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire to win.

I WILL remember that my child plays hockey for his/her enjoyment, not mine.

I WILL encourage good sportsmanship through my actions, by demonstrating positive support for all players.

I WILL provide support for coaches and officials working with the athletes to provide a positive experience for all.

I WILL demand my athlete treat all players, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators with respect, regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.

I WILL treat all players, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators with dignity and respect in language, attitude, behavior, and mannerisms.

I WILL inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my athlete or the safety of others.

I WILL respect the property and equipment used at any sports facility, both home and away.



CONDUCT SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINE

Making physical contact with any player, coach, official, league representative, arena personnel, or spectator.

Taunting or threatening any player, coach, official, league representative, arena personnel, or spectator.

Going into the locker/dressing room of an opposing team or obstructing their access to said room.

Going into the officials' locker/dressing room or obstructing their access to said room.

Using profane and/or vulgar language or mannerisms.

Going onto the ice surface.

Throwing of any object onto the ice surface.

Pounding or climbing on the glass.

Defacing or destroying property belonging to any individual, team, association, or arena.

Being involved in any activity that would warrant the summoning of law enforcement officials.

Inciting any person(s) to become involved in any of the above behaviors.

Any other conduct that is not in compliance with the tenets of the MAHA S.T.A.R. Hockey program.



MICHIGAN AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION SHARED TOLERANCE, APPRECIATION, & RESPECT

**KILL HIM!
TAKE HIM OUT!
HIT HIM HARD!**

The words of a maniac? Depends on how you look at it. All these phrases and more have been screamed out at one time or another during a youth hockey game by parents of the young players. On the surface, this type of behavior could be looked at as relatively harmless over-enthusiasm. But the truth is much darker.

Fan aggression at youth hockey, soccer, baseball, and other youth sporting events is becoming a national epidemic. What kind of messages are we sending our kids? Recently a 42 year-old man was beaten to death by another parent during a game. Again and again, coaches, officials, and even kids are the subject of verbal, and sometimes physical abuse by parents.



PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH.

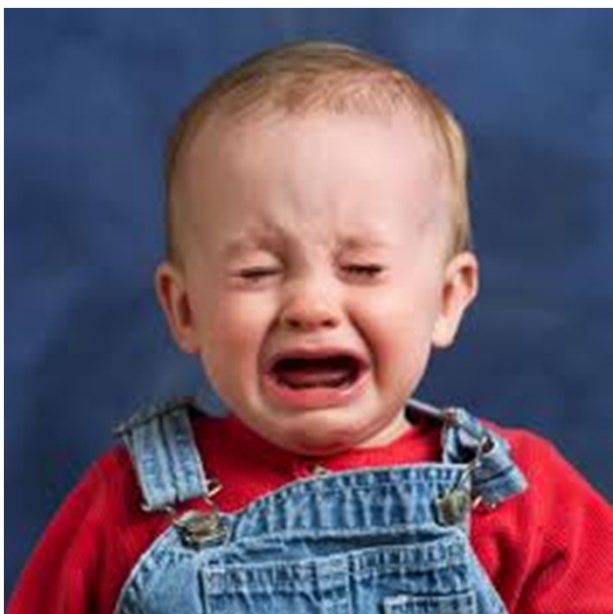
Of course, not all hockey parents fit this description. Most have the right idea... that playing hockey should, first and foremost, be fun for the kids. That playing the game will teach young athletes about sportsmanship, teamwork, and leadership... important skills they can use throughout their lives. The fact is, all parents probably tell their kids these things, but too many parents seem to forget the lessons as soon as they get into the stands. It's time for a new attitude. We need to come together and embrace a new code of conduct that will help solve these problems and give the game and all it has to offer back to the kids. And you'd better believe abusive parents are taking a toll on the kids.

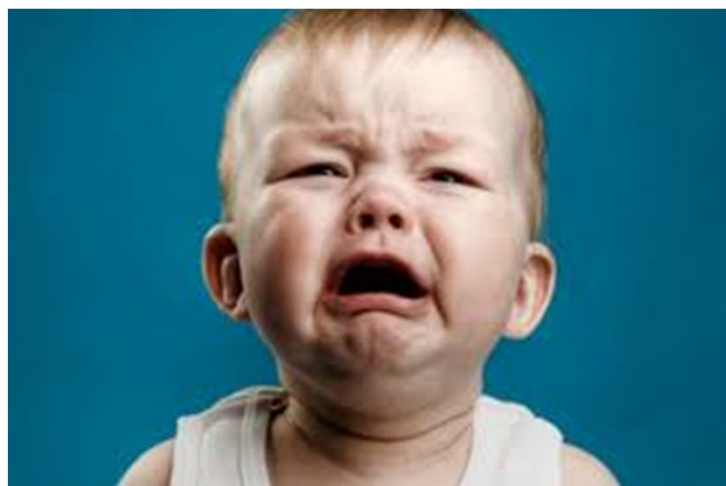




"Does this mean I can't come over to your house?"







HEY, NO PENALTY!
ARE YOU BLIND?
THAT 10 YEAR OLD
WAS ASKING FOR IT!



It's All About Kids!

MAHA's S.T.A.R. HOCKEY program is about shared values. There is nothing new about them. They are the same kinds of values and behavioral conduct your parents taught you...the same values you now teach your own children to live by. They should not be thrown out the door at a hockey game, soccer game, or any other youth sporting event.

Youth sports are not a stepping stone to the pros. The vast majority of kids will never make it that far and putting undue pressure on your children to play for all the wrong reasons is unfair and damaging.

Remember, 70% of all kids in youth sports quit by the age of 13.

The kids are telling us something:

"Lay-off, kick back, and let me play for ME. Let me play because it's fun and because, for most of us kids, it really is just a game... a stepping-stone on the road of life with lessons and memories I can cherish and remember long after I stop playing.

For the future of all youth sports, and the millions of kids who play, it's about time we listened.

OBNOXIOUS SPORTS PARENTS: Guess Which Country Has the Worst?

New Survey Challenges Adults' Management of Youth Sports **By Doug Abrams**

A new nationwide survey of 300 youth leaguers between the ages of 8 and 14 sends a disturbing message to parents and coaches who care about the place of organized sports in their children's lives. Among other things, 31% of the youth leaguers said that they wish adults did not watch their games. Eighty-four percent said that they have quit or considered quitting a team, and 47% said that they wanted to quit because they were not having fun.



The World's "Worst Behaved" Parents

The new independent survey was commissioned by i9 Sports, which offers youth sports leagues, camps, clinics and after-school programs with a focus on fun, safety and convenience. Many of the survey's findings are old news because they replicate equally disturbing findings that have been around for the past 20 years or so. This is not the first survey to suggest that as youth leaguers get older, many grow dissatisfied with the way adults manage their games and many even quit playing altogether. Dissatisfied adults frequently join in the criticism.

In 2010, Reuters News and the market research company Ipsos jointly conducted a survey that explored youth sports in twenty-two nations. The survey ranked parents in the United States as the world's "worst behaved" parents at children's sports events. Sixty percent of U.S. adults who had attended youth sports contests reported that had seen parents become verbally or physically abusive toward coaches or officials; runners-up were parents in India (59%), Italy (55%), Argentina (54%), Canada (53%) and Australia (50%).

"It's ironic that the United States, which prides itself in being the most civilized country in the world, has the largest group of adults having witnessed abusive behavior at children's sporting events," said an Ipsos senior vice president.

The Reuters/Ipsos survey confirmed earlier estimates of adult excesses in youth sports. In a Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission survey, 45.3% of youth leaguers said that adults had called them names, yelled at them, or insulted them while they were playing in a game; 21% said that they had been pressured to play with an injury; 17.5% said that an adult had hit, kicked or slapped them during a game; and 8.2% said that they had been pressured to harm others intentionally. In a Survey USA poll in Indianapolis, Indiana, 55% of parents said that they had seen other parents engaging in verbal abuse at youth sporting events, and 21% said that they had seen a physical altercation between other parents.

The National Alliance for Youth Sports estimates that about 15% of youth league games see a confrontation between parents or coaches and officials, and a national summit on Raising Community Standards in Children's Sports concluded that youth sports is a "hotbed of chaos, violence and mean-spiritedness." In a survey conducted by *Sports Illustrated For Kids* magazine, 74% of youth athletes reported that they had watched out-of-control adults at their games; 37% of the athletes had watched parents yelling at children, 27% had watched parents yelling at coaches or officials, 25% had watched coaches yelling at officials or children, and 4% had watched violence by adults. In a survey of adults and players conducted by *SportingKid* magazine, more than 84% of respondents reported that they had watched parents acting violently (shouting, berating, or using abusive language) toward children, coaches or officials during youth sporting events.



DONT BE THIS GUY.